

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

The following is a detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the Application.

1. (Previously amended) A computer system for distributed collaborative computing, the system comprising:

    a plurality of server computers connected to a plurality of client computers via a global-area computer network;

    a high-speed direct connection link connecting the plurality of server computers; and

    a computer program executable by the server computers, wherein the computer program comprises computer instructions for:

        conducting an on-line conference among an arbitrary number of the client computers connected to an arbitrary number of the server computers over the global-area network and the high-speed direct connection link;

        assigning a respective unique identifier to each page of a document stored on one of the client computers for viewing on an arbitrary number of other client computers; and

        transmitting at least a portion of the respective unique identifiers for the pages of the document to each of the arbitrary number of other client computers so that the same pages can be viewed at each of the arbitrary number of other client computers.

2. (Previously amended) The computer system of claim 1, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

    spawning one or more processes on the server computers controlling the viewing of the document;

    monitoring the operational status of the spawned processes; and

    spawning a new process in the event failure of a spawned process is detected.

3. (Original) The computer system of claim 1, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

sharing an application program executed on one of the client computers on an arbitrary number of other client computers.

4. (Original) The computer system of claim 1, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

detecting a failure of one of the server computers handling the on-line conference;

disconnecting the failed server computer from the on-line conference;  
connecting another of the server computers to the conference; and  
resuming the on-line conference.

5. (Original) The computer system of claim 1, further comprising a database, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

storing information about the status of the on-line conference in the database.

6. (Previously amended) The computer system of claim 1, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

ensuring that a maximum number of authorized conference participants is not exceeded.

7. (Previously amended) A method of operating a distributed collaborative computing system comprising a plurality of server computers, the method comprising:

conducting an on-line conference among an arbitrary number of the client computers connected to an arbitrary number of the server computers over the global-area network and the high-speed direct connection link;

assigning a respective unique identifier to each page of a document stored on one of the client computers for viewing on an arbitrary number of other client computers; and

transmitting at least a portion of the respective unique identifiers for the pages of the document to each of the arbitrary number of other client computers so that the same pages can be viewed at each of the arbitrary number of other client computers.

8. (Previously amended) The method claim 7, further comprising:
  - spawning one or more processes on the server computers controlling the viewing of the document;
  - monitoring the operational status of the spawned processes; and
  - spawning a new process in the event failure of a spawned process is detected.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
  - detecting a failure of one of the server computers handling the on-line conference;
  - disconnecting the failed server computer from the on-line conference;
  - connecting another of the server computers to the conference; and
  - resuming the on-line conference.
11. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the distributed collaborative computing system further comprises a database and the method further comprises:
  - storing information about the status of the on-line conference in the database.
12. (Previously amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

ensuring that a maximum number of authorized conference participants is not exceeded.

13. (Previously amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program executable by a plurality of server computers, the computer program comprising computer instructions for:

conducting an on-line conference among an arbitrary number of the client computers connected to an arbitrary number of the server computers over the global-area network and the high-speed direct connection link;

assigning a respective unique identifier to each page of a document stored on one of the client computers for viewing on an arbitrary number of other client computers; and

transmitting at least a portion of the respective unique identifiers for the pages of the document to each of the arbitrary number of other client computers so that the same pages can be viewed at each of the arbitrary number of other client computers.

14. (Previously amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

spawning one or more processes on the server computers controlling the viewing of the document;

monitoring the operational status of the spawned processes; and

spawning a new process in the event failure of a spawned process is detected.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

detecting a failure of one of the server computers handling the on-line conference;  
disconnecting the failed server computer from the on-line conference;  
connecting another of the server computers to the conference; and  
resuming the on-line conference.

17. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, further comprising a database, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

storing information about the status of the on-line conference in the database.

18. (Previously amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

ensuring that a maximum number of authorized conference participants is not exceeded.

19. (Previously added) The computer system of claim 1, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

determining whether a user of one client computer on which the document is stored has elected to jump to a new page in the document.

20. (Previously added) The computer system of claim 19, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

if it is determined that the user of the one client computer on which the document is stored has elected to jump to a new page in the document, transmitting the respective unique identifier for the new page to each of the arbitrary number of other client computers.